

REMARKS

Claims 2-30 are pending in the present application. Claims 9 and 15-30 have been rejected, with all other claims having been indicated as being allowable. Claims 9 and 10 are amended herein. Consideration of these remarks and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for allowing claims 2-8 and indicating the allowable subject matter of claims 10-14. In view of this indication, Applicant has amended claim 10 to be in independent form. Accordingly, claims 10-14 should now be allowable.

Claims 9 and 15-30 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Takahashi (U.S. Patent No. 5,748,024). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As detailed in Applicant's amendment filed September 25, 2003, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 9 is allowable over the Takahashi reference. For simplicity, these arguments will not be repeated here. In that amendment, Applicant showed why Takahashi could not anticipate the limitation of the "third voltage level being different than the first voltage level." In this amendment, it is made explicit that the third voltage level is different than both the first voltage level and the second voltage level. As discussed in the September 25 amendment, this limitation was already implicitly in the claim and, therefore, this amendment is not narrowing.

Claims 10-19 depend from claim 9 and add further limitations. It is respectfully submitted that each of these claims is allowable for reason of depending from an allowable claim as well for adding further limitation.

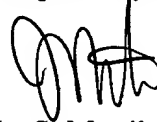
Claim 20 specifically recites "an enable/disable section including a first portion coupled between the level shifting section and the first voltage node and a second portion coupled between the level shifting section and third reference voltage node." It is respectfully submitted that the reference of record does not teach or suggest the limitations of claim 20.

In the final rejection dated July 25, 2003, the Examiner states on page 4, lines 4-5 that the third voltage level is "VDD less the voltage drop across transistors 21 and 22." But on line 9 of the same page, the Examiner cites to "a third reference voltage node VDD carrying a the third voltage level VDD." However, the third voltage level cannot be both VDD and VDD less a voltage drop. Therefore, Takahashi cannot anticipate claim 22.

Claims 21-30 depend from claim 20 and add further limitations. It is respectfully submitted that each of these claims is allowable for reason of depending from an allowable claim as well for adding further limitation.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that the formal issues have been resolved. If the Examiner has any questions or other correspondence regarding this application, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact Applicant's agent at the below listed telephone number and address.

Respectfully submitted,



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